

SOCCER ACTION

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Spotlight on our ills

Soccer in Australia certainly is not progressing at the same rate as in the mid-seventies; on this we all agree. For some observers the game is not progressing at all and here there may be some dispute. Finally, in the opinion of some critics, or realists, the game is going backwards. In whatever degree, we all admit that the game has problems that have nothing to do with the general downturn of most other sports.

Just before the 1983 championship season kicked off a few weeks ago, Frankston City folded up suddenly after having enjoyed some degree of success in the Victorian State League and despite boasting good facilities and one of the best social clubs in the business.

The demise of Frankston City is serious in itself, but the tragedy of it all is that many other clubs are in similar difficulties but simply don't have the common sense or guts, to take the same radical dive into oblivion.

Worse still, some of these clubs have a distorted perception of the situation and believe, instead that they have the guts to continue. True in some cases the much maligned "ethnic connection" keeps producing miracle after miracle. But for how long and to what final purpose?

Officialdom in soccer is less inclined towards self-criticism than in most other fields; the media — whatever soccer media there is — has been limited and, in general, superficial; the individuals have been so jealous of their precious personal positions that they become aggressive, almost belligerent, towards anybody who seems to be "rocking the boat".

As a result, issues have not been debated and problems have not been identified and much burying of heads in the sand and the adoption of Louis XIV's motto: "After me, the deluge".

At "Soccer Action" we pride ourselves in having been a consistent voice of constructive criticism for many years, often attracting the wrath and reprisals of the mighty, be they federations, leagues, clubs or individuals.

In this tradition we publish an in-depth study of the problems affecting our sport today.

The writer, Rocky Di Zio, is a man who has seen soccer from all angles over some 30 years: as a junior player, as a spectator, as a club supporter, as a club and federation official, as a reporter and, in general, as a keen lover and student of the game.

His study mostly is centred on the Victorian State League, a traditional showpiece of soccer in contrast to the more recent and artificial National League that will survive or perish not necessarily on its merits or demerits. But the problems are fairly general to all leagues and divisions in all States.

The writer does not intend to pontificate, nor to preach the gospel. He simply puts forward his experiences and observations over many years, giving also a voice to many other soccer people he has been associated with over the years and who might be not articulate or determined enough to present their views as an opening to a general forum.

He has dissected the problem into four parts: 1) the players, 2) the club officials, 3) the juniors, 4) the federations and others contributing factors.

In this first of four articles he deals with the responsibilities of the players.

By
ROCKY DI ZIO

Soccer, like all fields of human enterprise where money is exchanged for services, must be considered a business; a service industry that should pay part of its income to the employees providing the service.

It should pay overheads and retain sufficient profits for future growth and inevitable lean periods. But, unlike all other businesses, it pays its employees many times more than what they produce.

The problem with soccer is as simple as that, but there are many connotations and contributing factors.

GREED!

Players are bleeding our clubs dry

First of a 4 part series

\$1,000 signing-on fees and \$60 match fees

But in actual fact these amounts would make any top liner laugh and are readily obtained even by those who impersonate soccer players by donning strips and boots and going out onto the field to kick anything that moves, mostly legs because they are slower and more numerous than the solitary soccer ball.

There is no doubt that a number of players are in it for the love and the enjoyment of the game and would be in it for mere expenses or for nothing.

Unfortunately they are forced to demand "equal pay" for reasons of professional pride and to be appreciated by some petty officials who often value the player, and the man, only according to what he costs. I could name many in this category of player.

It is also true that some of the players who demand a lot of money have great skills and their effort at training and at games is equal to the remuneration they seek, while their life-style is as spartan as their professional sportsman status demands. Here I could also name many; and God bless them all, for they are the ones who bring the spectators through the turnstiles and inspire our young players.

But it is much more true that the game is being bankrupted by many greedy mercenaries, the real "professionals" of negotiation, self-sell, self-promoting and unfair pressures on clubs.

The players resort to all their unlimited bargaining skills to "score" good contracts for their limited soccer skills and then perform poorly, wanting to be propped-up continuously by bonuses and other incentives. They have no discipline nor proper life-style; form pressure groups to make life impossible for coaches and other players who are not part of the "circle" and on top of it all spit on the plate that feeds them, having nothing but contempt for officials and supporters.

Just to illustrate this dominant attitude, there is a well-

continued p.2

NSL seeks cash help



Sam Papasavas

The National League will seek financial compensation from the ASF because three NSL rounds in June have been postponed to make way for an interstate match and three internationals against England.

There will be no NSL games on June 5, 12, or 19. The rounds will be tacked onto the end of the season.

One of the postponements is due to a match between Queensland and NSW, which has just appointed John Watkiss of Sutherland as State coach.

"Our clubs will have to keep paying their players for three weeks without any income," NSL chairman Sam Papasavas said this week.

"Therefore, we will ask the ASF for financial compensation — probably from the gate takings at the England matches."

The NSL meanwhile rejected a new national league format suggested by ASF marketing director Peter Sheehan.

Riverwood follows Frankston, Croatia off to Indonesia

Fears that Riverwood would depart the NSW State League have been realised and as from now, the league will continue playing with 13 clubs.

Meanwhile Sydney Croatia will spend the weekend playing in Indonesia. It toured the U.S. a few years ago.

Attempts by some to save Riverwood by "marriage" did not eventuate. However, Riverwood has already played

four matches and it appears that the NSW Soccer Federation executive will decide to wipe all points concerning Riverwood.

So far the side had played four matches, winning 4-0 against Canterbury, then losing in succession to Sutherland (0-1), Croatia (0-4) and Polonia (0-2). If these results are cancelled, then Blacktown will jump into the lead with Melita Eagles in second place, followed by Sutherland and Croatia.

Riverwood's future was thrown into doubt when it lost substantial sponsorship.

The club is the second to quit federation soccer within three weeks.

In Victoria, Frankston City pulled out of the First Division because of debts, a shortage of players and lack of support.

Docherty to work against 'Roos?



Tommy Docherty (left) could play a vital role in the fortunes of our youth team at the World Youth Cup finals in Mexico in June.

According to a recent story in the mass circulating English newspaper, "Sunday People", Docherty has contacted Scottish youth team manager Andy Roxburgh, offering to give him a full run-down on the young Socceros, drawn alongside the Scots in group A of the 16 nation tournament.

Shades of Herr Gutendorf who was set to spill the beans about our senior side to Fiji before a World Cup qualifier two years ago?

'Keegan' screw-in
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'Stabil'
\$64⁹⁹

'Keegan Star' moulded sole
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paid "professional" in a leading ethnic-support club who told his committeemen to tell his faces that he hates all officials and supporters of that particular ethnic group!

The unfortunate thing is that he is still there, taking good money from the very people he hates. In the meantime he is alienating some officials, to whom principles are more important than success, and turning away many of the supporters who generate his salary, not just at the turnstiles.

And let's not mention other things they manage to extract from officials and supporters, like well-paid civilian jobs for which they have no qualifications nor attitude, goods and services like cars, car repairs, rent-free flats, drinks and so on.

These many undesirable unfortunately satisfy their outrageous financial greed because some officials are just as outrageously greedy for success and personal importance.

Another advantage this class of player has is experience and advice. Players can be on the scene for something like 10 years and they share among themselves their cumulative experience, continuously coming up with new ways of outsmarting naive officials who may be on the scene for as little as one or two years and certainly do not combine their limited experience with fellow officials of "enemy clubs".

One great con that players have perfected to a fine art in recent years is the "maximum transfer" they often have written into their contracts.

By virtue of this clause, which superficially could look like a moderator of costs, the player sets his own maximum transfer fee for years to come and gets a licence to transfer as often as it suits him. The ultimate effect of this clause is that clubs only can be the losers, at both ends.

Take a player with a maximum transfer fee of, say, \$5,000 on his contract.

If he has had a good season, and has many clubs chasing him prepared to pay any

amount, he has a licence to go at a bargain price.

The club "selling him" is prevented from making a justified profit, while losing a valuable player.

The club "buying" him will be in no better position, because in gladly accepting the "bargain", and in consideration of it, will give the player a very handsome signing-on fee.

So while the clause is putting a powerful brake on transfer-fees, which is money circulating among clubs and therefore continuing to finance the game, it inflates out of all proportions the signing-on fees, which is money that goes out of the game and into the bottomless pockets of players.

Taking a punt, or even an educated guess, in relation to the intricate field of signing-on fees where some payments are also made under the table, I would say that in the past six years average signing-on fees have gone from \$500 to \$3,000 in the Victorian State League (a mere 500% increase), while



transfer fees have remained stationary, or even have receded.

Still wondering why clubs are going bankrupt?

But let's look in more detail at the time bomb that is the innocuous looking maximum transfer clause.

It goes like this: a club is looking for a certain type of player and is prepared to pay a fee of \$5,000 and a signing-on fee of \$2,000 for a total of \$7,000.

By coincidence, the player it wants has a maximum transfer fee of \$3,000 in his contract, what a bargain!

The player then asks for a signing-on fee of \$5,000 and the club gladly forks it out because the deal still amounts to the \$7,000 it wanted to spend in the first place.

Chances are the player will ask and obtain the same \$3,000 maximum transfer fee in his contract with the new club, and no way in the world will he take a lesser signing-on fee in following years.

So at the end of, say, three yearly contracts, the club has paid out \$3,000 in transfer fee and three times \$4,000 in signing-on fees for a total of \$15,000 (or more, because the player may have managed to obtain yearly increases, not to mention equally exorbitant match-fees) and can only recoup \$3,000 by transferring him to another club, even if in the meantime his value has doubled or trebled.

Had he not been a "bargain", the player would

have cost the club the higher \$5,000 transfer fee and three times \$2,000 in signing-on fees, for a total of \$11,000 (a saving of \$4,000 compared with the "bargain") and his transfer to another club at actual market value could have brought in a handsome amount, even \$10,000.

Eventually the "bargain" would have cost, directly, \$11,000 more than the "expensive buy". Multiply this amount by the many smart players who

change clubs in a year and you will have a better idea of why clubs are going bankrupt. Indirectly, this "bargain" acts as a general escalating factor in the total expenses of the club, because its central figure will soon change to his "mates" his lavish financial conditions and, come contracts renewal time, all other players will be asking for higher signing-on fees and match-fees based on his very powerful argument: "Somebody is getting it and I am not inferior to him!"

But that is not all. In a player-club contract the only obligation that is readily measurable and precisely stated is the monetary reward.

The effort, the performance, the life-style, the loyalty, the duties are all intangible or measurable quantities. The maximum transfer fee, of any amount, becomes a joke if the player does not fire and goes down in value or, even worse, if he decides to retire for any reason, or to go back overseas. The "bunny" club gets little or nothing.

Once I was negotiating terms with a player from a former club was buying for \$10,000 and, naturally, he wanted a \$10,000 maximum transfer fee clause in his contract.

To his amazement I readily agreed on condition we insert also a "minimum recoup clause" for the same amount, explaining that it meant the club would have to get that amount for him in any case.

If he wanted to transfer and no club was prepared to pay the amount, he would have to make up the difference himself; if he wanted to give the game away, because of an accident or any other personal reason, he would have to pay the club the whole \$10,000 himself. You have never seen a quicker change of mind!

As it happened, the player flopped and after two years

the club transferred him at a loss of \$4,000. Fortunately, more or less at the same time, it had bought another player for \$3,000 and transferred him for \$11,000. Without maximum transfer fees on either contract, the club, between these two players, made a profit of \$3,000.

Had both players had maximum transfer fees in their contracts (usually the purchase price), the club would have still got only \$6,000 for the first player, but a mere \$3,000 for the second one, for a combined loss of \$4,000.

Some may delude themselves that the maximum transfer clause helps the less financial clubs in keeping up with the more affluent clubs, by making it easier for any club to acquire any player.

Nothing is more untrue, because the lesser clubs would not have a chance to attract these "bargains" with what they can offer in terms of signing-on fees and match fees. In any case the total financial burden we have demonstrated would end up wrecking these smaller clubs.

Some even may say that it is immoral for clubs to sell players like cattle and to want again we have a misguided attitude.

Players are born, in some cases with natural talent, and clubs have to spend large amounts to develop the skills, for themselves and not for other clubs.

So if any other club wants to buy this "commodity" it has to pay for it and is entitled to make a profit when reselling it, because in the meantime it will have spent more money in improving it, or because the market has become inflated

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the club transferred him at a loss of \$4,000. Fortunately, more or less at the same time, it had bought another player for \$3,000 and transferred him for \$11,000. Without maximum transfer fees on either contract, the club, between these two players, made a profit of \$3,000.

Had both players had maximum transfer fees in their contracts (usually the purchase price), the club would have still got only \$6,000 for the first player, but a mere \$3,000 for the second one, for a combined loss of \$4,000.

Some may delude themselves that the maximum transfer clause helps the less financial clubs in keeping up with the more affluent clubs, by making it easier for any club to acquire any player.

Nothing is more untrue, because the lesser clubs would not have a chance to attract these "bargains" with what they can offer in terms of signing-on fees and match fees. In any case the total financial burden we have demonstrated would end up wrecking these smaller clubs.

Some even may say that it is immoral for clubs to sell players like cattle and to want again we have a misguided attitude.

Players are born, in some cases with natural talent, and clubs have to spend large amounts to develop the skills, for themselves and not for other clubs.

So if any other club wants to buy this "commodity" it has to pay for it and is entitled to make a profit when reselling it, because in the meantime it will have spent more money in improving it, or because the market has become inflated

ing-on fees for a total of \$15,000 (or more, because the player may have managed to obtain yearly increases, not to mention equally exorbitant match-fees) and can only recoup \$3,000 by transferring him to another club, even if in the meantime his value has doubled or trebled.

Had he not been a "bargain", the player would

have cost the club the higher \$5,000 transfer fee and three times \$2,000 in signing-on fees, for a total of \$11,000 (a saving of \$4,000 compared with the "bargain") and his transfer to another club at actual market value could have brought in a handsome amount, even \$10,000.

Eventually the "bargain" would have cost, directly, \$11,000 more than the "expensive buy". Multiply this amount by the many smart players who

change clubs in a year and you will have a better idea of why clubs are going bankrupt. Indirectly, this "bargain" acts as a general escalating factor in the total expenses of the club, because its central figure will soon change to his "mates" his lavish financial conditions and, come contracts renewal time, all other players will be asking for higher signing-on fees and match-fees based on his very powerful argument: "Somebody is getting it and I am not inferior to him!"

But that is not all. In a player-club contract the only obligation that is readily measurable and precisely stated is the monetary reward.

The effort, the performance, the life-style, the loyalty, the duties are all intangible or measurable quantities. The maximum transfer fee, of any amount, becomes a joke if the player does not fire and goes down in value or, even worse, if he decides to retire for any reason, or to go back overseas. The "bunny" club gets little or nothing.

Once I was negotiating terms with a player from a former club was buying for \$10,000 and, naturally, he wanted a \$10,000 maximum transfer fee clause in his contract.

To his amazement I readily agreed on condition we insert also a "minimum recoup clause" for the same amount, explaining that it meant the club would have to get that amount for him in any case.

If he wanted to transfer and no club was prepared to pay the amount, he would have to make up the difference himself; if he wanted to give the game away, because of an accident or any other personal reason, he would have to pay the club the whole \$10,000 himself. You have never seen a quicker change of mind!

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'Soccer Action' challenges England

As controversy rages over the composition of the national squad to meet England three times in June, "Soccer Action" writers put forward three possible line-ups.

LAURIE SCHWAB'S selection is based on the fact that England probably will use two strikers.

Schwab says: "Steve Blair and Arno Bertogna are the two best possible stoppers, and of all the sweepers playing in Australia at the moment, none is doing better than Charlie Yankos of Heidelberg, so these three would form the core of my defence."

"Coach Frank Arkok has spoken about the desirability of using blocs of players from one or two clubs. In that case, I offer four South Melbourne Hellas players across the mid-

field — Crino and Murphy in centre field, and Russell and Davidson to do the dual job of picking up England's wide players, and also pushing forward down the flanks. The emphasis on a club bloc is the only reason I have not included Peter Katholos, but he is on the bench and he definitely would get a run."

"Up front, I can't go past the skill and fighting power of Jim Campbell and Phil O'Connor, with Marshall Soper as target man for passes to his feet, and lurking for opportunist goals and for full use of the flair and finishing ability which are his hallmarks."

CRAIG MCKENZIE'S selection has got nothing to do with the way England may play. It's simply the team he'd like to see represent this country at present.

MacKenzie says: "I've been telling people for years that John Yzendoorn best understands the responsibility of the covering defender. I don't care if his club coach, Rale Rasic, leaves him on the bench for the next 20 weeks. That's Rasic's problem. For mine, there's no better sweeper in the land. Yzendoorn has been 'spanked' enough by the ASF. After the recent debacle against New Zealand his qualities are needed urgently."

"As for Frank Arkok's comment that talented Joe Watson

is in the squad to supply crosses, I'm starting to think that we're living in dreamland. If Terry Butcher and Phil Thompson play for England they'll be the only guys inside Australia's attacking third who will be getting a head to Watson's crosses."

"We must play to feet and support. That's the only way we can compete. Even then we'll need a bit of luck."

LES SHORROCK SAYS: "It wasn't I who was challenged by the editor to produce a better team than Frank Arkok's selection that I realised what a difficult task it was."

"With Martyn Crook out injured, there doesn't seem to be a goalkeeper in the country playing consistently well, so after some hesitation I went for Greg Woodhouse with

Dennis Boland on the bench. "There might be some raised eyebrows over my choice of Peter Lewis, but I happen to think the big fella is the best back in the country, while Alan Davidson and Steve Blair pick themselves, and Charlie Yankos is doing a great job for Heidelberg."

"In the midfield, Jimmy Campbell, always it seems inexplicably overlooked, is playing out of his skin, and also scoring goals, what more can a midfielder do?"

"When it came to the forwards, John Kosmina was a must, and after a little mental anguish I went for Tommy Cumming because the wee man is such a ferocious ball-winner that his full back doesn't take his eyes off him for a second."

Laurie Schwab

Todd CLARKE (Syd. City)	Arno BERTOOGNA (APIA)	Alan DAVIDSON (SM-Hellas)
Charlie YANKOS (Heidelberg)	Ken MURPHY (SM-Hellas)	
Steve BLAIR (SM-Hellas)	Oscar CRINO (SM-Hellas)	
Bobby RUSSELL (SM-Hellas)	Jim CAMPBELL (Heidelberg)	Phil O'CONNOR (Wollongong)
Marshall SOPER (Olympic)	Peter KATHOLOS (Olympic)	Peter LAUMETS (SM-Hellas)

Craig Mac Kenzie

Todd CLARKE (Syd. City)	John YZENDOORN (SM-Hellas)	Alan DAVIDSON (SM-Hellas)
Peter LEWIS (Ajax)	Arno BERTOOGNA (APIA)	Ken MURPHY (SM-Hellas)
George CHRISTOPOULOS (Canberra)	Mark KOUSSAS (Olympic)	
John KOSMINA (Syd. City)	Jeff OLIVER (Heidelberg)	

Les Shorroock

Greg WOODHOUSE (Leichhardt)	Steve BLAIR (SM-Hellas)	Alan DAVIDSON (SM-Hellas)
Peter LEWIS (G.G. Ajax)	Charlie YANKOS (Heidelberg)	Ken MURPHY (SM-Hellas)
Jim CAMPBELL (Heidelberg)	Peter KATHOLOS (Olympic)	Oscar CRINO (SM-Hellas)
Tommy CUMMING (Melbourne Croatia)	John KOSMINA (Syd. City)	

On the bench: Dennis BOLAND (Footscray), Robbie DUNN (W. Adel)

Young Roos beat Wollongong 7-0

NATIONAL YOUTH TEAM 7 (Incantalupo 3, Stewart, Lowe, McCulloch, Gloeckner). WOLLONGONG SELECTION 0 at Balgownie Oval, Wollongong, Crowd 2000. Referee: Mostronianni 7.

NATIONAL YOUTH TEAM: Hummel 7 — Meier 7, McCulloch 9, Vlietstra 8, Jones 8 — Stewart 8, Fabrizio 8, Maxwell 8 (Llanta 754) — Gloeckner 7, Lowe 9, Incantalupo 8.

WOLLONGONG SELECTION: Preston 6 — Mub-lbauer 6, Dunleavy 6, Ainsworth 6, Fleming 6 — Waldron 6, Richardson 6, McGreen 6 — Stavenovski

6, O'Connor 7 (Green 90th), van de Voorde 6.

The Young Soccerroos ran hot on a chilly night in Wollongong last week.

They did not fail to live up to their growing reputation as soccer entertainers with a memorable display of high quality, modern football which earned them an impressive 7-0 victory.

Strikers Fabio Incantalupo, David Lowe and Steve Gloeckner tormented Wollongong with their speed, flair and ability.

They were among the most impressive performers in a team described by observers as the best side to play in Wollongong for many years.

National coach Les Scheinflug said: "It was a most useful workout and I must say we were right on target," Scheinflug said.

"Let's hope we're not hit by any serious injuries from now to the World Cup finals."

The Young Soccerroos were in a class of their own against a Wollongong selection which included six senior Wolves players.

Playing at a fast pace throughout, the Soccerroos caught the eye with their simple and effective patterns, their fitness and their high level of understanding.

Surely, this side must have a great future if properly coached, the Wollongong selection, understandably, lacked cohesion and ideas.

The Wollongong side had a couple of early chances through O'Connor but on the half hour Incantalupo man-



aged to beat Preston in a solo move.

On the stroke of half time McCulloch advanced with his forwards and finished off a fine collective move with a hard shot that found the back of the net.

Ten minutes into the second half Stewart made it three with a glorious rising shot and a few minutes later Lowe ran 40 metres to collect a pass from Jones and score a memorable goal with the poise of a veteran.

Incantalupo, Gloeckner and again Incantalupo finished off the thoroughly beaten selection with three more goals. — **PHILIP MICALLEF**

Dave Smallman: Ajax's battered Rolls Royce

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

David Smallman has broken the same shin bone twice, broken two ribs, dislocated his shoulder out after being set in place, and suffered countless ligament and muscle strains and sprains in a professional career which started in 1970 at the Racecourse Ground, home of English league club Wrexham.

At 30, with probably three or four seasons left in top company, the former Welsh international deserves a change of luck. Smallman is one of the outstanding footballers in the Victorian State League and if he has a lengthy injury-free run this season he can expect to be a leading candidate for end-of-season major player awards.

He's a proud Welshman without being a fanatic nationalist, has conservative political leanings, realises the need for unionism but also is critical of what he describes as "unions who abuse their powers, who overstep their mark."

"I voted conservative back home. I suppose that's the same as the Liberal party here. I've seen enough of the so-called welfare state system in Britain to realise its shortcomings," said Smallman.

"Charisma plays a big part in Australian politics. That's how Bob Hawke became prime minister. It's different back home. Probably because there's no-one with charisma."

Smallman is married. His wife, Barbara, is expecting their first child in June. The Smallmans will celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary in September this year.

Smallman lost his job of 10

DAVID PAUL SMALLMAN, Green Gully Ajax midfielder, has been described by his coach, Len McKendry, as "a Rolls Royce among footballers".

Smallman was born on March 22, 1963, in Connah's Quay, just inside the Welsh border, about eight miles from Chester.

He joined Wrexham, then in the English Third Division, in 1970 as a 17-year-old. In March, 1975, he transferred to First Division giant Everton for \$152,000. He returned to Wrexham in 1980 for six months, then joined Bangor City in the Northern Premier League. Five months later he was Green Gully Ajax-bound.

He has seven full international caps for Wales, one youth cap, and has made five under-23 appearances. He

months just three weeks ago and is on the look-out for work. He foresees staying in Australia for maybe six or seven years, the last two years to be spent, hopefully, as a coach.

"I like the lifestyle here — Foster's Lager and more financial security. Barbara would like to go back home and eventually we plan to settle there. The unemployment situation in Britain is farcical though. Let's hope that it improves."

Smallman's pet hate in Australian soccer is refereeing. "They (referees) are unbelievably poor," he states emphatically.

"I went to a Harry Armstrong Reserve Cup match at Green Gully on Easter Monday. I was in our dressing room before the match and the ref walked in and asked our lads if they wanted to play slide tackles or not. It was incredible. Then during the match both sets of players suddenly stopped playing and



was the outstanding midfielder in this year's Victorian Ampol Cup competition and one of his goals in Ajax's 5-0 win in the final against Heidelberg is one of the most memorable ever scored on the hallowed turf of Olympic Park's main ground.

went into huddles at different ends of the ground. I wondered what the hell was happening. I found out after that the referee had decided that he wasn't going to allow any more slide tackling and had instructed both captains to group their players together and let them know of his decision."

Smallman also is critical of "the clowns on TV who are supposed to be promoting the game here. After listening to one of them in particular no-one would want to go to any games. No wonder the crowds are poor."

Smallman was one of nine apprentices at Wrexham in 1970. All played senior football in the 1970-71 season which may be a record in the English League. Three of his team mates then were Joey Jones, who made his mark later with Liverpool, Micky Thomas, now with Stoke City, and Billy Ashcroft, best known for his stint with Middlesbrough.

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Continued page 10

TRIPLETTA DI VITTORIE ITALIANE

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Dopo la quarta giornata, il campionato di Lega Statale si è quasi diviso in due tronconi con Croatia, Juventus, Morwell e Green Gully (le prime quattro del campionato scorso) saldamente in testa e Imbattute; Fawknor e Croydon che incalzano e il resto nel mezzo. Il resto nel mezzo, più completo che si schiarisce con il passare delle partite per condannare, le due meno meritevoli, al capitolato in lega metropolitana.

Le squadre-sorprese di questo primo scorcio di campionato, Box Hill e Northcote, hanno crollato al primo ostacolo di una certa consistenza. Il primo è stato battuto in casa da Polonia e il secondo è stato travolto, sempre in casa, da quella macchina da goal che si chiama Croatia.

Questo stato di cose punta solo verso una cessione: la Lega Statale non può reggersi con le prestazioni valide ed il pubblico discreto di mezzo della metà delle sue squadre a fra i due tronconi dovrà avvenire prima o poi il divorzio definitivo o con la regionalizzazione della Lega Nazionale,

che assorbirebbe la maggior parte delle squadre di testa, oppure con il ritorno in Lega Statale delle squadre di Lega Nazionale, che spingerebbe la zavorra delle squadrette di coda. Al momento qualsiasi movimento di ristrutturazione e' ancora molto campato in aria, ma ben farebbero i responsabili a trovare le formule migliori al più presto possibile per permettere una migliore pianificazione che nel passato.

SFIDA INDIRETTA

A causa di una curiosa circostanza di calendario che vede il Morwell incontrare le squadre che la settimana successiva se la vedranno con la Juventus, questo campionato da' anche l'interesse di una sfida indiretta continua fra le due italiane di testa, fino a che l'incontro diretto, nella dodicesima giornata, non provverà un metro più esatto sulla superiorità dell'una o dell'altra. Per ora la Juventus sembra avere un lieve vantaggio, ma il Morwell ha tutti i requisiti per migliorare più marcatamente con il passare delle partite. Questa l'analisi degli incontri contro le stesse avversarie fin ad ora disputati: Croydon — il Morwell lo batteva di misura per 1-2 sul difficile campo di casa, mentre la Juventus lo batteva facilmente per 2-0 all'Olympic Park (partita 1). Fawknor — la consorella più giovane faceva vedere i classici colori verdi a tutte due, pareggiando 1-1 a Morwell e 0-0 con la Juventus sul campo di Jukes Road, che ha le stesse caratteristiche e difficoltà di quello di Croydon (vantaggio per la Juve); South Melbourne Hellas — tutte due le italiane vincevano facilmente per 3-1 (anche a metà tempo il risultato era un leggero vantaggio per il Morwell che aveva giocato fuori casa, lasciando così un millimetro di vantaggio alla Juventus che si accentua di qualche altro millimetro a causa del miglior quoziente reti (7-1 contro 8-4) e dal fatto che il Morwell ha sempre subito un goal a partita mentre il portiere bianconero ha perso la sua imballabilità solo domenica e, per di più, a causa di un insolito quanto pacchiano sbaglio di Pat Bannan.

Tornando alla quarta giornata del campionato riscorriamo la sofferta vittoria del Morwell in casa contro il Doveton, prossimo avversario della Juventus; la facile vittoria della Juventus contro il South Melbourne Hellas in casa, dopo un deludente primo tempo a formazione rimaneggiata; la strabiliante vittoria esterna del Fawknor che ha superato il George Cross per 5-3.

Quello che fa rimanere perplessi alla Juventus è il povero comportamento delle riserve che continuano a mietere insuccessi. Il cambio di allenatore ovviamente richiama del tempo per poter dare i suoi frutti, ma i quadri della squadra sono piuttosto sfortunati, con qualche buona individualità e poca sostanza. Ora che la squadra cade in un comitato, e dei fondi non indifferenti, tutto per sé, sarebbe anche il caso di reclutare un nuovo allenatore che potrebbe dare alla squadra i mezzi di ben figurare e di offrire ricami capaci di essere immessi in prima squadra quando il presente campionato ne darebbe l'opportunità. Cosa è successo dei provini che Mar-

mente da centrocampisti e si sta pericolosamente assottigliando adesso che Cavalieri si è stufato di fare la riserva e sta cercando di passare al Fawknor.

Il primo tempo è stato perciò molto deludente per i Tennenamenti in difesa, una certa inconcludenza a centrocampo e poca incisività in attacco dove French ha fatto molto poco e Zinni non ero ancora in buone condizioni fisiche. Fortunatamente Fabio Incantalupo ha finalmente ritrovato la sua vena migliore ed è stato una spina nel fianco della difesa avversaria e, con un po di fortuna, avrebbe potuto andare a rete più di una volta.

Comunque Fabio ha confermato le sue grandi qualità, fra le altre, di ottimo battitore di palle piazzate sbloccando il risultato con una dosatissima punizione da fuori area, che ha evitato la barriera finendo sui piedi di Pat Bannan che da pochi passi non ha avuto difficoltà a insaccare. Purtroppo l'ottima puntata offensiva del difensore veniva annullata da una sua molto insolita pappera, che permetteva ad Abraham di pareggiare le sorti allo scadere del primo tempo.

Il secondo tempo era però tutto un'altra storia, con l'ingresso in campo di Drinocky che ha ristabilito così la saldezza della difesa e il comitato di Nelson, mentre Lloyd prendeva il posto di French, ma giocando in funzione di mezza punta e dando più spazio e appoggio a Incantalupo che cominciava a imperversare ancora più che nel primo tempo. Al 67mo egli colpiva la traversa e in molte occasioni andava vicino al goal o veniva bevuto dal dosati interventi del sempre bian piazzato Perre.

Tutta la manovra juventina migliorava con i cambiamenti apportati dall'allenatore e i poveri ragazzi del South Melbourne, rafforzati per l'occasione da Buljevic, andavano completamente alla deriva con il solo portiere intento a limitare il passivo. Drinocky, finalmente avanzato per un calcio d'angolo, portava la Juventus in vantaggio su dosato calcio d'angolo di Incantalupo, magistralmente schiacciando in giù la palla e angolandola fuori della portata del bravo Perre. Ged Bannan siglava la partita dopo una trotterellata solitaria e un gran tiro finale che non ammetteva discussione.

Quello che fa rimanere perplessi alla Juventus è il povero comportamento delle riserve che continuano a mietere insuccessi. Il cambio di allenatore ovviamente richiama del tempo per poter dare i suoi frutti, ma i quadri della squadra sono piuttosto sfortunati, con qualche buona individualità e poca sostanza. Ora che la squadra cade in un comitato, e dei fondi non indifferenti, tutto per sé, sarebbe anche il caso di reclutare un nuovo allenatore che potrebbe dare alla squadra i mezzi di ben figurare e di offrire ricami capaci di essere immessi in prima squadra quando il presente campionato ne darebbe l'opportunità. Cosa è successo dei provini che Mar-

garitis doveva condurre per reclutare giovani promesse e di cui si diceva tanto all'inizio dell'anno? Con questo non auspichiamo l'arrivo indiscriminato di elementi come, o peggiori, di quelli cresciuti meo vivali juventini, che a parità di merito dovrebbero sempre avere la precedenza sui nuovi arrivati, ma la scelta sapiente di sicuri talenti che stanno marcando nelle divisioni inferiori e che potrebbero essere i Davidson, i Blair, gli Opatinas della Juventus.

DA CATENACCIO A SPETTACOLO

Dopo due partite all'insegna del catenaccio più esasperante e che hanno prodotti punti preziosi contro forti formazioni come il Morwell e la Juventus, Cirkovic ha dato prova di tutta la sua abilità e flessibilità tattica, a seconda dell'avversario, andando a Sunshine per dare spettacolo. I suoi ragazzi hanno dato battaglia come al solito, ma questa volta con una marcata tendenza d'attacco ed hanno colto il bersaglio ben cinque volte, con il rientrante Bruno Sabiusschi che dava l'esempio proprio all'inizio della partita. Palinkas, che da settimane segnaliamo come un grosso giocatore in continuo miglioramento, ha messo assieme una doppietta. Bozakis si sta riconfermando il grande centrocampista che era assunto agli onori della Lega Nazionale con l'Heldberg e, all'occasione elegante realizzatore mettendo a segno un'altra rete. Schipano, in un certo senso il giocatore che meglio idealizza la forza e la vitalità del giovane club, ha messo a segno la quinta marcatura.

Ma la nota più positiva della partita è stato il felice insto del giovane attaccante Bruno Cozzella, acquistato in settimana dal Footscray, che pur non segnando, ha dato segni e si è disimpegnato molto bene per un giocatore inattivo da quasi un anno. I due punti conquistati così, gagliardamente, anche se al costo di tre reti subite, ha sollevato la posizione di classifica della Fawknor che presto dovrebbe arrivare a ridosso delle quattro "grandi", pronto ad approfittare di qualsiasi battuta d'arresto di una di esse. Il Morwell ha sofferto più del necessario per aver ragione di un combattivo Doveton, ma il solito McGuinness ha trovato la porta due volte ancora (come aveva fatto la settimana scorsa) mettendo al sicuro il risultato. Cosa dire di un giocatore che con quattro reti in due partite sta ristabilendo la sua fama di connazionale principe della Lega Statale? Che meriterebbe la classica medaglia e fucliazione.

Appoggiato da una squadra di gran giocatori, rifornito da un maestro della casse ed esperienza di Alan Evans e spinto da un centrocampista del fuoriclasse McLean e Young, McGuinness dovrebbe segnare una carombole di reti se solo applicasse un impegno pari alla sua classe.

Il piccolotto, pur se non ancora nella sua forma fisica migliore, sembra stia giocando troppo al risparmio e spesso si "imbosca" a centrocampo lasciando Mitten

troppo solo in avanti. Non crediamo che questo comportamento di McGuinness sia dettato da istruzione della panchina. E non ci si dica che lo abbiamo preso di mira, poiché tutte le stelle debbono necessariamente essere oggetto della massima attenzione della critica, come delle lodi. Da lui, ex capocannoniere del campionato e vincitore della Rothmans Medal che il Morwell ha reclutato a caro prezzo, e più che giusto aspettarsi di più come impegno, anche se due reti a partita fanno comodo a qualsiasi squadra.

CHE VENGO NOI!

Il fine partita di Juventus-Hellas è stato turbato da un increscioso incidente sul quale non andiamo in dettagli per amor di patria e con la speranza che sia sorto da un malinteso e quindi che sarà riparato dai responsabili nei limiti del possibile.

L'affronto subito da un vero gentiluomo, da un grande sportivo e da una degnissima figura comunitaria che ha molto dato allo sport e alla comunità, è un caso limite in una serie di atteggiamenti che la classe dirigente juventina ha assunto negli ultimi tempi e che precludono seriamente la definitiva e duratura rinascita del club.

Nelle divisioni inferiori hanno colto altisonanti successi due squadre italiane che hanno tutti i presupposti amministrativi e organizzativi per fare ulteriore onore al calcio italiano e Melbourne e che, pertanto, meritano tutto l'appoggio e l'incoraggiamento di tutti. Thomastown e Bulleen.

Il Bulleen Veneto, un club che ha fatto passi da gigante all'ombra dell'imponente sede del club sociale di cui è una filiazione, ha battuto per 5-0 il Chelsea, dopo il punteggio tentistico di 6-1 ottenuto la settimana scorsa contro il Carlton. Sotto la guida capace e impegnata dell'ex nazionale U23 Fausto Tarquinio, giovani come Salvatore, Boarotto, Boin, Sunderland, Meneguzzi, Cassal e "vecchie volpi" come Poropat, Graser e Spadaro stanno dando la loro impronta al campionato di prima divisione della Lega Provinciale e fanno ben sperare per la promozione alla Lega metropolitana. Forza "mull", e' proprio il caso di dirlo.

Il Thomastown, dopo un inizio deludente nel campionato di seconda divisione della Lega Metropolitana, e' letteralmente esplosa contro il pur modesto Ardeer. Sette reti messe a segno e nessuna subita in qualsiasi partita, da una differenza di valori tali che mettono le due squadre in fondo e in cima al valore generale della competizione. E non dovrebbe essere troppo lontano il giorno in cui il Thomastown tornerà in vetta alla classifica, anche con il punteggio, per ambire anch'esso alla promozione. Un risultato altisonante certo non vince un campionato, ma il Thomastown ha una tale solidità strutturale e morale che da una luce molto diversa, quasi una eccezionale conferma, al risultato di una singola partita.

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Brisbane City for the lead?

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Brisbane City should jump to second place on the NSL ladder by beating APIA in their postponed game at Marconi Oval on Friday night, and could take over league leadership by beating West Adelaide in Adelaide on Sunday.

But it remains to be seen whether Brisbane City has enough reserves of energy to win twice within three days. The more likely result on Sunday is a draw, or a West Adelaide victory.

Sydney City Hakoah also should get back among the leaders despite its 6-1 loss to Heidelberg last Sunday. Hakoah looks too strong for Footscray J.U.S.T. in the later match of Friday's double-header, and should beat St George as well on Sunday, which would give it 11 points.

As I see it, West Adelaide, Heidelberg, Brisbane City and Sydney City should be within a point of each other in the top four positions on Sunday night. John Yzendoorn finally may get his first full game for South Melbourne Hellas against Wollongong at Middle Park on Sunday.

Coach Rale Rasic has been saying that the only reason Yzendoorn wasn't in the team was because the team was winning. That situation changed when Hellas lost 0-2 to St George Budapest. Yzen-

This week's NSL matches, with likely winners in capitals, and with record of past matches between clubs:

FRIDAY
SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH v Footscray J.U.S.T., Marconi Oval, 7pm
(Record: Syd C 6 wins, 4 draws, 2 losses, 21:2 goals)

SATURDAY
APIA-Leichhardt v. BRISBANE CITY, Marconi Oval, 8.45pm
(Record: Brish C 3 wins, 4 draws, 1 loss, 10:7 goals)

SUNDAY
Canberra Arrows v. HEIDELBERG ALEXANDER, Bruce Stadium, 2.30pm
(Record: H'berg 7 wins, 3 draws, 2 losses, 20:9 goals)

SUNDAY
SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH v. St George Budapest, Sydney Athletic Field, 3pm
(Record: Syd C 8 wins, 2 draws, 0 loss, 28:9 goals)

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS v. Wollongong, Middle Park, 3pm
(Record: Sth Melb 1 win, 2 draws, 1 loss, 5:3 goals)

West Adelaide Hellas v. Brisbane City (draw), Hindmarsh Stadium, 2.30pm
(Record: W Adel 5 wins, 3 draws, 4 losses, 16:15 goals)

PRESTON MAKEDONIA v. Newcastle KB United, Connor Reserve, 3pm
(Record: Newc 2 wins, 1 draw, 1 loss, 8:5 goals)

Brisbane Lions v FOOTSCRAY JUST, Richlands, 3pm
(Record: Foots 6 wins, 3 draws, 4 losses, 19:20 goals)

Marconi-Fairfield v. SYDNEY OLYMPIC, Marconi Stadium, 3pm
(Record: Marc 5 wins, 3 draws, 2 losses, 14:8 goals)

APIA-Leichhardt v. Adelaide City Juventus, Lambert Park, 3pm
(Record: APIA 4 wins, 3 draws, 1 loss, 11:6 goals)

doorn came on as a substitute for Steve Woodin against St George, so we could see Woodin dropped, Ken Murphy taking the left wing position and Yzendoorn slotting into the midfield.

Sydney City may include Gerardo Gomez, who came on as a substitute for Kevin Mullen against Heidelberg.

Incidentally, Jim Tansey, the Heidelberg star who broke his arm last week, is confident of getting back into training within five weeks. In the meantime, John Spanos will remain at left back.

Canberra City should have George Christopoulos back after injury, but he won't worry Heidelberg, which should have another victory the following week, against Brisbane Lions.

Preston Makedonia missed sweeper George Todorski in its 1-3 loss to Brisbane City. Coach Peter Ollerton played well in Todorski's position, so it will be interesting to see which of them plays against four-placed Newcastle at Connor Reserve.

NSL team of the week

In brackets: No. of appearances in this time.

MEIER (1) (Syd. Olympic)

SKEEN (1) **YANKOS (3)** **HENDERSON (1)** **McKIE (2)**
(St Geo) (H'berg) (Marconi) (H'berg)

BELIC (1) **CARROLL (1)** **BRADLEY (1)**
(JUST) (JUST) (APIA)

WATSON (1) **PATON (1)** **O'CONNOR (1)**
(SC-Hakoah) (JUST) (W.gong)



LAUGHS WITH THE DOC
By JOE DOCHERTY

enough. Maybe he should have brought his suede "wellies". Anyway, it was too late. Back into the blocks. The gun was raised again. Bang! Bobby (or is it Robert) quickly settled into the middle of the bunch. A blistering pace was set, everybody was concentrating fiercely, everybody except Bobby. He stopped for a wee chat to a lady time-keeper.

After threatening to talk to her all day, he secured the young lady's phone number, he took off to catch up with the rest of the field. Being quite a distance behind, Robert put his "wellies" into top gear and started to burn the track up as he closed the gap on his opponents.

The crowd roared as the bold Robert caught up with the pack. The rubber in his "wellies" was fairly smouldering as he drew level. "Nae bother" was his triumphant war-cry as he flew past, heading for the last bend.

The pressure on our hero's wellies was enormous. As he approached the bend, he tried to take the turn too wide. The strain on his "right wellie" was too much and it blew out.

The smell of burning rubber was everywhere as our man skidded on his bum right into the long jumpers' sand pit.

The last we saw of our hero, he was talking the backside off the stretcher-bearers as they transported him to a waiting ambulance.

Bobby was taken to the Alfred where a team of top surgeons and welly-removers waited to perform a tricky operation — more next week.

OPEN-AIR: I went to the JUST-Canberra game at the weekend. Their social club was open to everybody. That isn't really surprising because it didn't have any doors.

If Jamie Paton scores regularly he will have to get blazer pockets on his jacket to accommodate all the back-handers from his well wishers at Footscray.

Hey, Jamie, see Bobby Russell and get a pair of "wellies" off him. They could hold hapsa of money.

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NATIONAL LEAGUE STANDINGS

Last week's standings in brackets:

		HOME					AWAY						
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Gls	Pts
1.	(1) West Adelaide Hellas	2	0	0	2	1	2	0	3	2	5	11	
2.	(4) Heidelberg-Alexander	2	1	0	4	1	2	0	1	1	5	2	9
3.	(2) South Melbourne Hellas	1	1	0	4	1	1	1	1	5	4	9	8
4.	(7) Newcastle KB United	1	2	0	3	2	1	0	1	5	3	8	5
5.	(3) Preston-Makedonia	1	1	0	3	2	1	1	1	5	3	8	5
6.	(8) Adelaide City Juventus	2	1	0	5	3	0	1	1	1	3	6	8
7.	(9) Brisbane City	2	0	1	7	6	0	1	0	1	1	8	7
8.	(12) St George Budapest	2	1	0	4	1	0	0	2	0	2	4	3
9.	(5) Sydney City Hakoah	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	3	6	5	6
10.	(6) Canberra Arrows	1	1	0	7	2	0	1	2	3	5	10	7
11.	(9) Sydney Olympic	1	1	1	5	2	0	1	1	1	4	6	5
12.	(14) Wollongong	0	3	0	3	3	0	1	1	3	4	6	7
13.	(11) APIA-Leichhardt	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	4	2	4
14.	(13) Marconi-Fairfield	1	1	0	3	2	0	0	3	0	5	3	7
15.	(15) Brisbane Lions	1	0	1	2	2	0	1	2	2	9	4	10
16.	(16) Footscray JUST	1	0	2	3	8	0	0	1	0	1	3	9

* Match in hand — to be played Friday.

Yankos leads by six

HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER 1 (Valentine) SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH 0 at Olympic Village. Crowd about 3000. Votes by Laurie Schwab:

6. Yankos (H), 5. Watson (SC), 4. McKie (H), 3. Valentine (H), 2. Spanos (H), 1. Robertson (SC).

FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T. 1 (Paton) CANBERRA CITY 0 at Schindler Reserve. Crowd about 2000. Votes by Peter Deslars:

6. Carroll (F), 5. Belle (F), 4. Paton (F), 3. Bryant (C), 2. Hozzowald (C), 1. Tudill (F).

WOLLONGONG 1 (Ainsworth) WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS 1 (Atkinson) at Zions Park. Crowd about 2500. Votes by Phillip Micallef:

6. Spruill (WA), 5. Vilesttra (W), 4. O'Connor (W), 3. Hays (WA), 2. Dunn (WA), 1. Hiern (WA).

ST GEORGE BUDAPEST 2 (Slater, Barton) SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 0 at St George Stadium. Crowd 4120. Votes by Peter Scott:

6. Meier (SO), 5. Lownds (BL), 4. Jennings (SO), 3. Hunter (BL), 2. Hogg (BL), 1. Herbert (SO).

ADELAIDE CITY JUVENTUS 1 (Mullen) MARCONI FAIRFIELD 0 at Olympic Sports Field. Crowd 1800. Votes by Memo Toutalidis:

6. Henderson (M), 5. Sermann (M), 4. Jankovics (M), 3. Maxwell (AC), 2. Benfield (AC), 1. B. Nyakohus (AC).

Leaders:
26. Yankos (H'berg).
20. Tokel (BC).
15. Perry (BC), Odzakov (Mak).
14. Burke (N), Henderson (Marc), Bryant (C).
13. Davidson (SM), Hozzowald (C), Stewart (BL).
12. Stone (St.G), Spruill (WA), Spanos (H'berg), Dunleavy (W).
11. Groedy, Skeen (St.G), Murphy (SM), O'Connor, Vilesttra (W), Campbell (Mak).
10. Lowe (N), McGachy, Dunn (WA), Patikas (SO), Carroll (JUST).
Top scorers:
4. Mountford (N), Egan (SM).
3. Redmond (C), Kosmina (SC), Luchael (Mak).



Brisbane City's Bill Wilkinson (centre) wins a header against Makedonia's Gary Ward (left). At right is Bobby Hamilton. Photo by CARLOS PICASSO.

Prospects for the Mars Bar kid

NEW SPONSORS: Charlie Egan has a sweet tooth, being more than partial to Mars Bars Tim-Tams, Eskimo Pies, chocolate Teddybears etc. Last Wednesday night, while watching T.V., the wee man ate sixteen Mars Bars. Later on he complained of a sore stomach, was rushed to the Alfred Hospital, was X-rayed and there wasn't a tooth-mark on any of them. Charlie should make a fortune this year, because he has been offered sponsorship by Rowntree, Arnott's and Peters Ice-cream to name a few. In fact I heard Red Tulip have offered him a fantastic job circumcising the jelly babies. He should take it because he could make a good "skin". Arnott's have also offered him a great position in public relations. His job will be arranging picnics for the chocolate Teddy Bears.

CANDID CAMERA: Did you watch the telecast of the Hellas-Heidelberg game? Quote from our friendly commentator (it was either Brian Moore, Hugh Johns, Arthur Montford or Laurie Schwab) "Alan Davidson has just cleared off the line with an overhead bicycle shot."

FORMATION TEAM: Albion Rovers have started doing aerobics (exercising to music). We may not be able to match teams with skill but we will dance the feet off them. It could add a whole new image to our game. Can you just imagine 12 "Ladies and Gentlemen, we would like to welcome you to the Selwyn Park Palais. Representing Albion will be Gerry Reilly, Frank MacLeod — (Footrot), Kenny Smart, Mick D'Sylva (Waltz), Benny Ferrie, Lars Murphy — (Quickstep)." Beautiful! How about this? Albion looked radiant in powder blue with a million sequins which the boys sewed on themselves. Okay, Victor, strike up! Here we go, boys 1-2, 1-2-3-4.

THE RACE: Last week we left Bobby (or is it Robert) Russell settled on his blocks, waiting for the starter's gun. "Ready, cried the starter. "Hold it!" yelled Bobby, stepping off his blocks. Things weren't right. His "wellies" didn't feel snug

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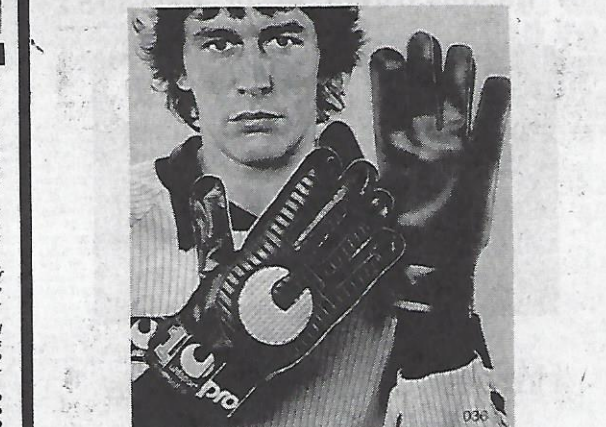
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Fawkner wants Kondarios, Paton scores in first game

Footy JUST 1 Canberra 0

Scorer: Paton 44m.
Ground: Schindler Reserve.
Attendance: 2000.
Referee: J. Faure 9.
Cautions: Tutill.

FOOTSCRAY: Boland 6; Curovic 7, Kyriakopoulos 7, Tutill 8, Hazabent 6, Taylor 6, Belic 8, Carroll 9; Paton 8, MacLeod 7 (Sinic 67m), Lujic 6.

Fawkner, fast becoming a haven for former JUST players made an approach for disgruntled Footscray captain Jim Kondarios on Monday.

Coach Cedo Cirakovic is keen to add Kondarios to his side since he has lost Les Gooney from his defence for most of the season with a bad ligaments injury.

Kondarios is uncertain whether to hang up his boots or join another club but definitely has played his last game for JUST.

He was dropped from the side on Sunday mainly on the recommendation of the committee which took exception to comments he made during the week about the club and the coach.

Kondarios had said he was sick of losing and could not see any improvement in the team.

The coach was getting rid of all the old players and Kondarios added he wasn't going to stick around and wait for his turn.

The centreback brought his gear, expecting to play, but ended up watching the match from his car.

Igor Hazabent took over the captaincy in his absence, but the men who provided the inspiration for the victory were Joe Carroll, Vlatko Belic and Jamie Paton, bought from Heidelberg for \$3000 during the week.

Paton had an impressive debut, scoring one goal and having a second disallowed apparently for offside.

He showed some of the confidence of old to break clear on a great through pass by Belic and then slotting the ball away calmly past the advancing Steve Hoszowski into the far corner of the net.

The goal came at the crucial closing minute of the first half after JUST had held out with comparative ease everything Canberra could throw at them despite playing against a gale force wind blowing down the length of the park.

Belic, apart from setting up the goal with a big run out of defence and his telling pass, gave JUST bite in the middle of the park and combined well with Carroll to totally overshadow Canberra's star-studded midfield.

Canberra coach George Murray summed up the situation best, saying his side didn't compete.

"We did not even force one corner and only had one shot at goal - Footscray really should have gone into the lead earlier."

"I thought we were terrible but full marks to Footscray - they took one of the few chances they had and deserved to win it."

Asked if Canberra might be starting another relegation battle right in the face, Murray said, "On that performance certainly but we're playing without four key players. We'll be a different side when they return."

The Arrows started without winger Tony Brennan, who had a recurrence of his ankle ligaments injury after last week's NSL cup game against South Melbourne Hellas, and still have George Christopoulos, Frank Farina, and Paul Ontong sidelined.

On Sunday Duncan Cole, the side's best player in the first half, added his name to the casualty list, pulling out



Peter Desira

during the break with hamstring problems.

Canberra's forward line, which until two weeks ago had made the club the highest scorer in the league, was completely lost despite facing a totally reshuffled Footscray back line.

Paton headed the ball into the net in the 66th minute from another good cross by Belic but the goal was disallowed, apparently for offside.

MacLeod, who battled hard all afternoon, was surprisingly taken off soon after and Jim Murray must have breathed a sigh of relief.

Bobby McLachlan was pleased with the 100 per cent effort of every player in the team but is not getting carried away by the result.

Henderson as good as ever

Adel City 1 Marconi 0

Scorer: Mullen 78th.
Cautions: Budini, Rozzotto (Marconi); Cole (Adelaide City).

Referee: Don Campbell 8.
Ground: Olympic Sports Field.
Crowd: 1800.

ADELAIDE CITY: McNally 7, B. Nykohus 8, Banfield 8, Shillabeer 6, Cole 7, Mole 6, Northcote 6 (Nykohus 69th), Dods 6 - Maxwell 8, Mullen 8, Carter 6.

MARCONI: James 7 - Rozzotto 7, Henderson 9, McCulloch 7, Bozanic 7, Budini 7, Sormanni 8, Carbone 8 - Hunter 7, Jankovics 7, Gjannone 6 (Djordjevic 66th).

Marconi, which had appeared as if it would enjoy a successful season, stumbled yet again, this time falling to an energetic, if not cultured, Adelaide City at Olympic Sports Field.

A 78th minute strike from Joe Mullen gave the Adelaide club its second win and put it within striking distance of the top four.

In retrospect, Marconi deserved at least a point, but a fatal error which allowed Steve Maxwell to cut into the penalty area and slip past to the unmarked Mullen was enough to separate the sides.

With only four points from five games, coach Doug Collins will be under enormous pressure to produce results in the next few weeks or he could become the first casualty of the season.

Ironically, Collins' Marconi confront the coach's former team Sydney Olympic on Sunday.

Adelaide City looked vastly improved from its previous home game against Brisbane Lions, which it won 2-1.

City looked far more compact and in the opening 20 minutes gave the appearance of a side ready for the kill.

But this is a familiar City tale. The team usually enjoys a comfortable opening then its game begins to decay.

That is what happened against Marconi, but the Sydney side could not punish



Jim Kondarios



Joe Carroll



Jamie Paton

Christchurch gets Boath

New Zealand International Allan Boath has decided against joining Footscray J.U.S.T. Instead he has signed a two-year contract with Christchurch Mogo United.

Boath, who spent last season at West Adelaide, has been training with Christchurch since his return from South Australia early in the New Year.

Contractual difficulties arose though and these, along with the hard-working defender's own preference for NSL soccer, prompted speculation that his career would continue in Australia.

United manager Terry Conley was therefore justifiably elated when Boath finally put pen to paper, stating: "I am relieved the matter is over and done with and Allan is now a United player."

Boath, captain of the Kiwis in their recent clashes with Australia, should prove a valuable acquisition for the Canterbury club.

-PAUL MOON



Meno Tousidis

City when it had the opportunity.

Mark Jankovics had a glorious chance to put Marconi ahead when he turned and slammed a shot past McNally only to see Paul Shillabeer clear off the line.

And early in the second half Jankovics cut back the ball to Carbone who thanked his colleague by thumping it over the bar.

Jankovics may have finally put Marconi into the lead moments later but City's new signing from Azzurri Phil Cole dragged him from behind as the soccerroo squad striker was ready to stride into a vacant penalty area.

Referee Don Campbell booked Cole but the defender deserved to be sent off in his first NSL match.

Adelaide City, though, had the best chance to score and could have done so as early as the second minute when Mullen just failed to get a touch to a Maxwell pass.

Later, Marconi keeper Brian James blocked a Maxwell strike and then Henderson cleared off the line to thwart Melita's header.

In the end though it came down to Marconi's hesitant defence allowing Maxwell the time and space to create the chance for Mullen.

While Maxwell looks certain to make Les Scheinflug's Youth Soccerroo squad, Mullen has done enough to get a recall after withdrawing from the Costa Rica elimination series because of injury in a Soccerroo practice match.

Meanwhile, critics who scoffed at Tony Henderson's reclusion in the senior Soccerroo squad will not be delighted to hear that Henderson was quite superb.

The former Soccerroo captain played as well as I have seen him and his influence on Youth Soccerroo captain Tom McCulloch, who plays alongside him, is quite apparent.

'Bunch of cheats,' says Ollerton

Brisb. City 3 Makedonia 1

Scorer: BC: Hamilton 57th, Tokes 76th, McMillan 85th, own goal; MK: Lucchesi 16th.

Venue: Spencer Park.
Cautions: BC: Hamilton, Mak: Campbell.
Crowd: About 1800.
Referee: Gordon Nicholson 4.

BRISBANE CITY: Wishart 7, Perry 8, Kovacs 7, Tokes 8, Wilkinson 7, Hamilton 7, Pimblett 6, Williamson 6, Hughes 7, Gockner 7, Cairney 8.

MAKEDONIA: Wilson 5, Petrovski 6, Jones 7, Ollerton 7, McMillan 6, Iloski 7, Livingston 7, Ozakov 6, Lucchesi 7, Ward 7, Campbell 8.

A 45 metre goal from George McMillan, a dismal display from goalkeeper Richard Wilson and a refusal by Peter Ollerton to talk to the local media after the game were among the incidents of a disappointing 1-3 loss by Preston Makedonia to Brisbane City at Spencer Park.

Makedonia went one goal ahead early in the match, and although many refereeing decisions went against them including a penalty, they failed to capitalise on their advantage and were slowly broken apart by the tireless Brisbane City.

But the own goal was the incident that most people talked about after the game.

Makedonia was trailing 1-2 with five minutes to go when McMillan tackled City striker Stephen Gockner just inside his own half. It was uncertain whether McMillan was trying to kick the ball back to Wilson or just clear it but he appeared to strike it with all his force and it rocketed down the field and into the top left hand corner of the net.

But that itself put a question mark over Wilson's performance. It was the third goal of the match that could have been saved if the former New Zealand international had been more dominant in the air.

It is understandable that a keeper could be clearly beaten from close range but not about

Amey's out of the wilderness

By PAUL MOON

After spending three of the past four years in the comparative wilderness of State League soccer, West Adelaide's Bill Amey is now back in the highest grade of football available within Australia; a stage many believe to be far more suited to his talents.

English-born Amey, a distinguished performer at school-boy level, commenced his senior career with Southern United, first as an apprentice and graduated to full professional, but was unable to win a first team place.

Released on a free transfer in 1974, he was recruited by Christchurch United and became a vital member of, arguably, New Zealand's finest ever club combination.

Captained by former England youth international Ken France, United also boasted Roy Drinkwater, Tom Randies, Ian Park, Phil Dando, Steve Sumner and Mark McNaughton.

During Amey's stay United won the coveted Chatham Cup three times and the Rothmans' National League once. In addition, it became the first Kiwi club to defeat a major overseas touring team when Scotland's Hearts of Midlothian succumbed 1-4.

Amey also appeared at representative level - playing for Canterbury against New Zealand under-21 (2-2), Luton Town (1-3), Glasgow Rangers (2-2), Middlesbrough (0-2) and Hertha Berlin (2-1).

During the long-striding, hard-ackling player's initial campaign with the "Rams", their cross city rivals, New Brighton, were coached by Alan Vest, who placed him high on his wanted list when building the original Newcastle KB United four years later.

Amey crossed the Tasman, rejoining Dando and Drinkwater, who had moved to Northern New South Wales from Brisbane Lions, and contributed a great deal to one of the most exciting chapters in the PSL's short history.

Newcastle KB United did not win any major trophy in 1978, but its exciting football proved a major talking point of that domestic season, as did the stunning attendances at the International Sports Centre.

Amey made 17 league appearances for KB, gaining much praise for his solid reliability.

It was surprising, therefore, that he dropped into the State Leagues, though still producing plenty of class in unsophisticated surroundings, establishing himself as a favorite with the supporters of Stewart and Lloyds and Blacktown City in particular.

He made a brief return to PSL soccer with Blacktown in 1980, but was restricted to eight games before returning to lesser fare.

Now Vest has brought him back to the big time. The 28 year old could well be, at \$500, the bargain buy of the season.

Amey's ball-winning ability has served him well at full back, however his cultured left foot probably will be utilised in midfield. A free kick specialist, he also will be eager to add to his goals tally.

'Bunch of cheats,' says Ollerton



Ricky Rosso

But the only comment to come from the Makedonia dressing room was the shout:

"Tell them they are a bunch of cheats."

And admittedly Makedonia was desperately unlucky not to get the penalty.

Alex Livingston put in a fine cross from the right - one of a number through the middle, which City keeper Kim Wishart grasped with his finger tips but failed to hold.

The ball fell at the feet of big Gary Ward, who had a good fighting game, but just as he went to put in his shot the cumbersome Wishart fell on top of him in an attempt to regain the ball.

In many ways, but obviously not from the angle Queensland referee Gordon Nicholson was looking, it appeared as if Wishart had put in a great Rugby League tackle on the Preston striker. But play was waved on and City cleared the ball. Had they got the penalty and scored, it more than likely would have ended City's comeback and Preston would have held on for three points.

But from Makedonia's point of view, it should never have thrown away the lead established in the 18th minute by Claude Lucchesi.

Preston could have got another in the 35th minute when former JUST player Zoran Iloski, who added some flair in a basic-looking midfield, hit a great volley. But Wishart was equal to the task and dived brilliantly to his left to turn the ball away for a corner.

GOALS: 69th: midfielder Atsalas, who had a quiet game, was left unmarked and in a near-offside position. He collected a misdirected shot from Brennan and beat Preston's keeper with a diagonal shot.

88th: Cotton got hold of a ball on the right wing, beat two men and sent over a cross which was met Ainsworth who headed into the net.

Watch the Wollongong Midfielders



Philip Micallef

Wollongong 1 West Adel 1

Venue: Ziems Park
Crowd: 2500
Scorer: Atsalas (WA) 69th, Ainsworth (W) 88th
Referee: Ramsey 6.

WOLLONGONG: Preston 7 - Willis 7, Vilestara 8, Dunleavy 7, Pollard 7 - McGreen 6 (Walton 71st, Fleming 7, Ainsworth 7, Kerr 7 - Cotton 7, O'Connor 7).

WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS: Sproul 8 - McGregor 6, Hiern 7, McGachey 6, Dunn 7 - Amey 7, Atsalas 6, Brennan 6 - Honeyman 6, Wormley 6, Hays 7.

In a tough and uncompromising clash, Jeff Ainsworth scored his first ever goal for Wollongong, which enabled his side to snatch a draw against the championship leader, West Adelaide.

West had taken the lead 24 minutes into the second half when Atsalas beat Preston with a diagonal shot.

But Wollongong, still struggling to hit its best form, reacted strongly to this setback from Atsalas and scored an equaliser only four minutes from time.

The match was no classic - at times it was even tedious - but in the second half the visitors' goal sparked off an action-packed finish.

Both goalkeepers, Preston and Sproul, had a satisfactory afternoon and made spectacular saves off Honeyman and Kerr respectively.

Two young defenders also had great games. Young Soccerroo Ray Vilestara came out with flying colours from his duel with big, strong Paul Wormley, while South Australian Brendon Hiern gave a good account of himself against a lively O'Connor.

In what is becoming a familiar pattern at Ziems Park, the opposition is casting too much attention on the two Wolves strikers, O'Connor and Cotton.

But Wollongong has now realised to the fact that it will most probably be up to the midfielders to get the goals.

West Adelaide was surprised on several occasions by sudden incursions by the Wollongong midfielders into the penalty area. McGreen, Fleming, Kerr and Ainsworth all had shots at goal when the two strikers created space for them. And, of course, the Wollongong equaliser came from midfielder Ainsworth.

OPINIONS: Wolves coach Willie Wallace had already given up hope of getting any points from this match. "It's nice to feel we got out of jail for once," he said.

"We were terrible but fortunately West Adelaide was not very impressive either."

West Adelaide coach Alan Vest was quite happy with an away point against a team he describes as "very hard to beat" but did not hide his dismay at the way his players gave the game away when everything had pointed to an important three-pointer.

"Over all we were the better side," he said.

GOALS: 69th: midfielder Atsalas, who had a quiet game, was left unmarked and in a near-offside position. He collected a misdirected shot from Brennan and beat Preston's keeper with a diagonal shot.

88th: Cotton got hold of a ball on the right wing, beat two men and sent over a cross which was met Ainsworth who headed into the net.

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IT STARTED WITH HERCULES

Northcote City was formed in 1961 as Hercules Soccer Club by the Dimokritos Social Club which wanted to expand its sporting outlets. At the time the social club ran a volley ball team and getting involved in soccer seemed a worthwhile pursuit.

The founder members were Nick Paris, Phillip Pezaros, V. Thous, K. Mastoris and Marinos Athanatos. The club changed its name, during the VSF clamp-down on "ethnic" names, to Princes Park Hercules, then became Collingwood in 1972.

After winning promotion to the First Division of the Metropolitan Leagues in 1977, it adopted its present name, and moved to John Cain Reserve, in Clarendon Street, Northcote.

Northcote was promoted to State League in 1981 to fill the vacancy created by the departure of Preston Makedonia to the National League. At the VSF board of management meeting to decide which Metro club would be promoted to State League, Northcote and Morwell Falcons were the final two contenders. The Northerners won of course, Morwell joining State League ranks the following year.

Northcote finished its first State League season in 9th place in the then 12-team competition. The following year, 1982, State League was increased to 14 teams. Northcote had a dismal season, finishing in second last place and seemed destined to return to Metro ranks.

However, the merger between Sunshine and George Cross created a vacancy in the league. The VSF, realising the amazing potential of the Greek-sponsored club, decided to preserve Northcote's State League status, a move which should reap rich rewards for Victorian soccer over the next few years.

Licensed club in \$1.75m. facelift

Northcote City's home ground, John Cain Reserve, is undergoing a \$1.75 million facelift which will turn it into one of the major soccer complexes in Australia.

The project should be completed by 1985. Floodlighting will be updated this year. It will be "similar to the Olympic Park lights but even stronger," according to publicity officer Steve Williams.

Already a main grandstand is near completion. It seats 1,114 spectators under cover. Tenders will be called soon for a huge social club to be built underneath the grandstand. It

will incorporate facilities to comfortably cater for 300 people. It will include a modern kitchen, a dance hall, a bar, a VIP room, billiard room and club offices.

"There will be no problem getting a full liquor licence and we anticipate opening the social club every day and providing first class meals," said Williams.

Under-covering terracing on the outer side of the ground will be a feature of the complex.

Parking for 1500 cars also in part of the project as are four supplementary grounds and a \$75,000 electronic scoreboard. Both areas behind the goals will be developed and used for advertising space.

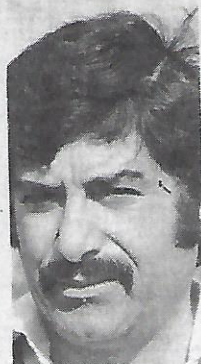
It's an ambitious project but irrefutable evidence of the progressive thinking of Northcote City soccer club and the Northcote council.

Northcote City, from left, back row: Alex Vidacic, Colin Quigley, Craig Nisbet, George Mihos, Jim Sahinidis, Sammy Wright, John Creany, Chris Katsakidis, Front row: Steve Moore, John Giannopoulos, Mark Wilson, Branko Culina, Peter Constantinou. Missing: George Bozikis, Jeff Gorman.



Meet the man who runs the juniors

Emmanuel Himonas (left) is Northcote City's junior director. The club runs 10 junior teams.



They showed the way

Two teams that hold a prominent place in Northcote's history. Top right: The side that won the Victorian Federation Cup in 1979, and, at right: Northcote's 1981 team in the club's first State League season.

BACK ROW: Kris Kalifatidis (from Hellas, 1981), Philip Palouso (Moonsee Ponds, 1978), Spiro Tsotzos (George Cross, 1979), George Bozikis (Hellas, 1979), Sakis Sahinidis (Heldberg, 1980), Mirko Rujovic (JUST, 1981), Con Dimopoulos (Altona Gata, 1980), Takis Tachiris (Clifton Hill, 1980), Mike Stogiannou (Western Suburbs, 1979).

FRONT ROW: Giovanni Batticchio (Hellas, 1979), Jim Loukas (from juniors), Con Fakos (Doveyton, 1980), Con Ignatidis (Altona, 1978), Mark Karabatsos (Kastoria, Greece, 1980), Bill Gatsonis (Hellas Juniors, 1978).



Northcote City's million-dollar grandstand at John Cain Reserve.

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GO TO CITY

BUILDING THE BEST TEAM IN VICTORIA

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

Tony Vrzina could be in his last stint as a senior coach and he's determined to finish his senior career with a bang.

"Once Northcote gets its clubrooms operating to full capacity, the club will give me the green light to go out and build the best team in Victoria," said Vrzina.

"This club has enormous potential. Later this season I'll sit down with my committee and we'll work out a long-term contract for me which could be a first for Australian soccer.

"If things work out I'll probably be here for three or four years. Hopefully, by then we will have achieved our goal. People will look up to us and respect us. Then my job will be done. I'll give soccer coaching away and get involved in the area I most enjoy—the juniors."

Vrzina was offered a top coaching job in Victoria late last year. He refused. He won't name the club because it told the man who got its coaching job that he was the man they wanted. He was appointed after Vrzina turned down the club in question.

Vrzina seriously believes that he has made the right choice. His immediate task at Northcote is to cut the wages bill from last year's sum of just over \$70,000 to \$65,000 in 1983. He also has to get better results. Both goals seem at odds with each other. Often an increased wages bill is commensurate with success. However, Vrzina is confident of achieving his goals.

"Last year we spent a lot of money for a very poor return. That won't be the case in 1983. I'll see to that."

"Buying and selling players is my sole responsibility, as are all player contracts. I also advise my committee on promotional and budgetary matters. We have cut down on signing-on fees yet already it is obvious that this

year's team is better than last year's."

"We have got to get rid of a few old debts. The committee must be run along more businesslike lines. People must realise that this is not simply a family affair we're running. The club must be bigger than the individuals."

It's no secret that Northcote hasn't had the most stable committee set-up in recent history. That's changed, so Vrzina's forecast of success in the near future carries some weight.

He is the architect of a massive publicity campaign to be run soon in the local area. Northcote will print 60,000 club newspapers to be distributed to locals before a home game in the first half of this season. The papers will include a questionnaire dealing with local attitudes to soccer and specific-

ally to Northcote soccer club. Membership coupons also will be part of this revolutionary club newspaper, as will free tickets to Northcote's home games. Sponsors will provide prizes for spectators on match day. The concept is a first for Victoria's State League.

"The potential of this soccer area hasn't been tapped," said Vrzina.

"We plan to give spectators excitement, something to watch and enjoy. We plan to lift our membership to close to 500 and to increase our average home gate by 40 percent. Last year our crowds were low. That has to change. It will change as we adopt modern promotional techniques and realise the communal potential of our club."

"Being a Greek sponsored club means that we have to fight with Hellas and Alexander for support yet I can see us developing into a club with as much glamor as these other Greek giants."

Socrates Papadopoulos, the mayor of Northcote, and Peter Plemenos, financial director of the club, met Vrzina last November. The trio went to Northcote's home ground at John Cain Reserve and discussed the \$11.75 million project to develop the ground into a major soccer complex. The local council, well aware of the importance of soccer to the local community, wants to make John Cain Reserve a showpiece for the sport in Victoria. Understandably, Vrzina was impressed.

Northcote already is far better off financially than at the same time last year. The club made about \$10,000 from a pre-season tournament and friendly games. Vrzina has brought Branko Culina (from St Albans Dinamo), John Creamy (Albion Rovers), Steve Moore (Western Suburbs), Colin Quigley (Slavia), Jim Sahinidis (South Oakleigh) and Northern Irish imports Jeff Gorman and Mark Wilson to the club this year. Gorman has returned to Northern Ireland for family reasons but should be back soon.

"When I talk to a prospective player it's his attitude that makes an impression upon me. The player must want to come to us. He must be aware that we now are a very progressive club. If the first few words we exchange concern money then I quickly lose interest," said Vrzina.

"John Creamy's attitude is exemplary. If he's down during a game he never stops trying to urge himself and his team mates on. I admire that. Jim Sahinidis and Branko Culina's attitudes are improving. By the end of the

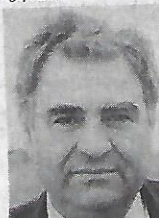


Northcote coach Tony Vrzina

Top men on committee

The committee which has the task of guiding Northcote to financial security and on-field success consists of some of the leading businessmen in the Northcote area. The committee is:

President Nick Kyriakopoulos, managing director of Champion Travel; vice-president Jim Yanoulatos, solicitor; financial director Peter Plemenos, director of Fitcut Lingerie; secretary George Karastavrou, architect; assistant secretary John Taitas; treasurer Jim Tsakonas; assistant treasurer Michael Katsos; publicity officer and SF delegate Steve Williams; real estate agent; property investor John Tsimaris, junior; director Emanuel Himonas; ground managers Andrew Tragos and Chris Panagopoulos.



Nick Kyriakopoulos



Peter Plemenos



George Karastavrou



Mark Wilson

Top coach Tony Vrzina signs seven new players in spectacular team improvement

season they will be recognised as fine State League players. I'll see to that.

"We must get cracking and start building our social rooms underneath the grandstand. I believe that work should start within the next fortnight and should be completed within two months. Then we can start to consolidate the club financially."

"I want to hire two more coaches next year, an assistant to me and a specialist coach who will look after our goalkeepers and our youth team."

"The potential of this club is enormous. To date I regard my major achievements as engineering the return of Croatia to Victorian soccer and building an eventual championship-winning team at Makedonia. In a couple of years' time I hope to include the development of Northcote City soccer club among those achievements."

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Nothcote Council backs club 100%

On behalf of Northcote City soccer club I extend our warmest thanks to the Northcote city council for its help in developing our club into one of the strongest in Victoria.

Our council has been tremendously supportive. Indeed, I can think of no other metropolitan council which has thrown its weight behind a local soccer

body to the extent of Northcote city council.

The help given us by our local council is greatly appreciated and we hope that our close association can continue for many years to come.

I openly congratulate the council on its outstanding contribution to sport in the local area, soccer in particular.

Yours in sport,
Steve Williams,
Publicity Officer.

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Best wishes to Northcote City for the 1983 season



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Caulfield in the wars again, Richmond chases Whittle

SELECTIONS

This weekend's games with likely winners in capitals:

METROPOLITAN DIVISION ONE
Saturday: DONCASTER v Albion Gate: KNOX City v Western Suburbs.
Sunday: ALTONA CITY v Frankston Pines: Richmond v MELBOURNE.

DIVISION TWO
Saturday: DANDENONG CITY v Ringwood United: ASHEBURY v HEIDELBERG ALEXANDER: FOOTSCRAY JUST v THORNHILL: KILPATRICK v ST ALBANS: DRUMMOYD v Preston: Mordialloc v NORTH DANDENONG: SPRINGVALE CITY v Waverley City.
Sunday: Prahran Slavia v NUNAWADING CITY.

DIVISION THREE
Saturday: Brighton v SOUTHERN OAKLEIGH: Eltham v Colong (draw): YALLIOUR v Caulfield City: HEIDELBERG BUNDOORRA v St Michaels: PRAHRAN CITY v Royal Richmond: Mornington v SANDRINGHAM: Port Melbourne v Seabury United (draw).

DIVISION FOUR
Saturday: Geelong v Essendon: Traralgon (draw): Koroit v NORTH GEORGE: Hawthorn v Geelong (draw): Koroit v NORTH GEORGE: COB v Ferntree Gully: MURDOCH v Sandhurst: Henty Rangers v Moorabbin (draw).

PROVISIONAL DIVISION ONE
Saturday: CHELSEA v Carlton: Clayton v BULLLEIGH: CLIFTON HILL v Balgownie: Maitland v HAWKSBURN: LAUNCESTON v Loughborough: EAST BRUNSWICK v Shepparton City: Manuka United v YARRAVILLE.

DIVISION TWO
Saturday: Sandringham v ALBION: TASSA: Nunawading United v HOLLAND PARK: Boroak v Central City (draw): Cranbourne v South Dandenong (draw): Kyronia v Rye (draw).

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AMATEUR LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
Sunday: BUNDOORRA v Belmont City: MACCARI v Ascut: CHAUNTON v Balgownie: POSTER INSTITUTE v Warrnambool: ENDEAVOUR HILLS v Vermont: EPPING THISTLE v New Uni: MELBOURNE UNI v Nth Melbourne.

DIVISION TWO
Sunday: Sandringham v ALBION: TASSA: Nunawading United v HOLLAND PARK: Boroak v Central City (draw): Cranbourne v South Dandenong (draw): Kyronia v Rye (draw).

YOUTH LEAGUE DIVISION A
Saturday: CROYDON v Fawcett: St Albans: George Cross v MELBOURNE: CROATIA: HEIDELBERG ALEXANDER v Richmond: SEABOARD: Sunday: Essendon v Traralgon: ALTONA CITY: JUVENILE v Waverley City.

DIVISION B
Sunday: Prahran v SPRINGVALE CITY: MOODLEBARK v Ashford: Sandhurst v Geelong: BULLLEIGH: FERNETREE GULLY v St Dandenong: Kyronia v ASQUIT UTD.

The Victorian Leagues

Caulfield City faces up to its second investigation in successive years by the VSF investigative and disciplinary committee after its Metro Third Division home against Eltham was abandoned on Saturday.

There was no official referee at the senior game, even though the reserves referee turned up to honor his appointment. In accordance with VSF rules, home side Caulfield provided the referee for the senior game. Two penalties to Caulfield and some wild swinging tackles later, Eltham players decided to walk off "for their own protection," according to club spokesman Gordon Kirkwood.

Eltham claims that when he approached the stand-in referee after the match, he refused to give his name.

Eltham has lodged an official protest with the VSF. Meanwhile, First Division outfit Richmond has parted company with coach Mike Kulpin and is reportedly interested in hiring transfer lister Preston Macedonia midfielder Alan Whittle.

Metro Fourth Division side Hamlyn Rangers paraded their new signing, John Gardner, on Saturday in their 3-1 win over Ferntree Gully. Hamlyn just played Fourth Division rival Moorabbin in signing Gardner for \$3,000 from Green Gully Ajax, an uncommonly high fee for lower league clubs to pay.

METROPOLITAN DIVISION ONE

FRANKSTON PINES 0 KNOX CITY 1 (Gary Keenan 65th) at Monterey Boulevard.

FRANKSTON PINES: Ivanoff 7, McCordie 6 (McGillivray 77th), Davidson 7, Paulding 6, Beach 7.

COOKS 8, Cullen 8, McNeil 7 - O'Halloran 6, Wall 6, Miller 6, Coach: Danny McMillan.

KEY CITY: Green 8 - Wilkinson 6 (Jai, Hargreaves 66th), Smale 6, Train 6, Thompson 6 - Gary Keenan 9, McElhinney 9, Houston 7, Parsons 7 - Drougday 7, Campbell 8, Coach: Terry Hargreaves.

This intense, exciting clash initially found home side Frankston Pines resorting to a hard, tough style of play trying to capitalise against some of the young, inexperienced Kew players.

Poor finishing robbed Pines of going in at the interval in front. Rather, they had to settle for a 0-0 half time score-line after Tommy O'Halloran and Kevin Wall both missed easy chances. O'Halloran's came after Jim Green had smothered a Wall attempt. The rebound fell for O'Halloran who hammered the ball over. In the 40th minute, after a comedy of errors which found most players lying on the ground after trying to clear a Pines attack down the right, Wall miskicked his shot, sending the ball trundling harmlessly into Green's clutches.

Kew was much more determined in the second half. The tempo of the midfield battle increased with Kew's Gary Keenan outstanding, closely followed by Pines' John Cullen.

A poor crossfield pass in the 65th minute was pounced upon by young Keenan who drove a 30 metre shot into the top corner with Pines' goalkeeper Lou Ivanoff stranded well out from goal.



Provisional League First Division players and staff. Back row: Andy Seimesi, Joe Szabo, Andy Kazi, Tibor Benesek, Slavko Visic, Steve Kanton, Tibor Matic. Front row: Janos Palo, Joe Bilo, Janos Szabo, Eddie Becolic, Steve Bleskany (player-coach), Steve Derek, Sander Kazi. Picture by SLAVKO DRJIC.

There was plenty of goal-mouth action for the remainder of the match with Kew successfully defending to the death.

BELL PARK 0 KNOX CITY 1 (Libral 55th).

BELL PARK: Vanjek, Thomson, J. Tutors, Daniela Filiposki, Mazza, Wilkinson, Prutey, Bond, Perkin, Ord. SUBS: Babic, M. Tutors, Longo.

KNOX CITY: McTurk, Dixon, Schroeder, Blesinger, Rodda, Murray, Smith, Fitzpatrick, Crompton, Laskewil (Ed Garish), House.

BEST: Bell Park: Perkin, Vanjek, Daniela, Knox: Schroeder, Blesinger, Rodda. On a playing surface best described as unsuitable for top soccer both teams experienced great difficulty in effectively controlling the ball which had too many chances not taken. House, Lisbirel and Murray were all inches wide with first half efforts and Bond saw a superb effort held by the fingertips of McTurk to prevent the home team taking the lead. Lisbirel was inches wide after 58 minutes but made amends immediately when a deflected shot lobbed high and

bounced down right on the goal and in the ensuing melee he was able to charge the ball over the line.

Bell Park almost drew level when a fierce shot from a free kick struck the post.

DIVISION TWO NORTH DANDENONG 1 (Mackie 70th) PRAHRAN SLAVIA 0

NORTH: Beamish 8, Popadopolous 7, Cortes 8, Wilmington 7, Blythe 7, Collier 7, R. Nelson 7, Byrne 7, Fox 7, D. Nelson 8, Mackie 8.

SLAVIA: Hammon 8, Anderson 7, Rizzo 6, Velazquez 5, Bass 6, Gallo 6, Cardenas 6, Ruble 6, Parasdes 6, Canales 6, Balcampos 6.

North Dandenong Soccer Club scored a spirited 1-0 win over Prahran Slavia and climbed into equal second in Second Division. Despite numerous attacking moves by North it was slowly Prahran that had the golden opportunity to go 1-0 up when Alistair Taylor was deemed to have fouled a visiting forward in the penalty area. However, goalkeeper David Bea-

mish pulled off a magnificent save to keep the scoreline level at half-time.

The Slavia defence finally cracked in the 70th minute when Ian Mackie, with an aggressive run, weaved his way past two defenders and into the penalty area before expertly slipping the ball past the advancing goalkeeper for a great goal.

DIVISION THREE SANDRINGHAM CITY 1 (Quin penalty 39th) PRAHRAN CITY 2 (Roberts 12th, Webb 52nd) at Sillitoe Reserve.

SANDRINGHAM CITY: Harburn 5 - Donovan 7, Palmer 6, Plumb, 7, Dillon 7 - Bulck 6 (Karpethakid 77th), Pienegon 7, Desiring 6 (Kallgeros 58th) - Flaherty 6, Walker 6, Quin 7. Coach: Steve Walker.

PRAHRAN CITY: Hawke 6 - Jackson 6, Campbell 7, Houston 7, Thomas 7 - McCallum 7, Webb 6, McKenna 7 - Roberts 7, Wallace 6, de Carl 6. Coach: Frank Campbell.

Prahran's midfield was the major difference between

these sides. David Webb, Marshall McCallum and Paul McKenzie had a lot of the ball and it only was due to Sandringham's fairly solid defence that the visitors found it hard to break through.

Early on Liam Houston beat Steve Walker in the air, although Walker did better in the second half in this department but to no avail. Prahran player-coach, sweeper Frank Campbell rarely broke sweat. He always had time to do as he pleased whereas the Sandringham back four often was forced into playing the ball early.

A bad piece of judgement by Sandringham keeper Steve Harburn led to Prahran's first goal. Webb slipped a delightful through ball to right winger Martin Roberts with Sandy left back Tony Dillon caught too far forward. Harburn raced about 20 metres out of goal with no chance of beating Roberts to the ball and the Prahran forward slipped the ball into the unguarded net.

Sandringham levelled a few

minutes before half time through its only effective forward, Alan Quin, who was pulled from behind by McKenzie and converted the resultant penalty.

A McCallum corner and an unorthodox Webb header in the 52nd minute from the near post, completed the scoreline. Quin almost equalised with 10 minutes left when he unleashed a dipping, swerving shot from the edge of the area which brushed the outside of the far post.

PROVISIONAL DIVISION ONE BULLEEN 5 (Boarotto 65th, Salvatore 75th, Gannet 78th, 87th, Sutherland 88th) CHELSEA 0

BULLEEN: Poropat 6, Bolin 6, Meneguzzi 7, P. Cassal 6, Zocchin 6, Greer 7, Sutherland 7, Bissetto 6, Gennal 6, Boarotto 7, Salvatore 7.

CHELSEA: Ballagamba 6, Balmistide 6, Macmillan 6, Smevra 6, Gooch 7, Mourao 6, Garuch 6, Novaro 6, Paturro 6, Pereira 6, Di-Pirno 6.

McGuinness which the little striker used up before thumping a low, 20 metre shot past Sean Keogh to make it 1-0.

DOVES ON ROAD TO RECOVERY

A minute before the interval Doveton equalised when Webster got clear on the left side of the area and shot low past Falcons goalie Billy Whiteside.

Eight minutes into the second half McGuinness struck once more, this time bagging the decisive goal of the game. Falcons like to use Noel Mitten for a nod on at the near post in corner kick situations. In this instance however, Jim MacLean's corner was deeper, clearing Mitten and setting up McGuinness who headed in from close range to make the Doves pay dearly for their defensive lapse in allowing Mitten to drag two defenders with him while leaving McGuinness free.

WADE WINS IT FOR CROYDON

ALBION ROVERS 0 CROYDON CITY 1 (Wade 90th) at Selwyn Park, Saturday.

ALBION ROVERS: Costello 8 - Ogden 8 (Hally 7, half time), Macdonald 8, Hennessey 8, Gabe 8, Farrie 4, Dixon 4, Murphy 4 - Coyte 5, S'lyve 5, Smart 6, Coach: Hugh Murray.

CROYDON CITY: Kastner 6 - Rainey 6, Dobson 6, McComb 6, Hobson 6 - Brown 6, Rooney 7, Wade 7 - P. Loughane 6, Loughane 6 (Irvin 7th), Nolan 7. Coach: Bill McCarthy.

'Albion Rovers' Michael Edgley, former player and coach Billy Cree, is to promote entertainment nights featuring "White Lightning" and "Rapture". The groups have been chosen for their names, to inspire the players.

At the moment, the Rovers with the exception of the stout-hearted defenders, have been performing to the strains of "Tip toe through the tulips". Rovers still haven't scored a goal after four games.

Croydon waits until injury time to score its goals. The game was about 92 minutes old when Paul Wade headed in the winner. You had to feel sorry for goalkeeper Tom Costello and defenders Frank Macleod, Dean Hennessey and Brian

Galea who had stopped everything Croydon had mustered during a siege that lasted the entire game.

Terry Nolan should have scored four or five goals himself, but he kept his legs wide or high from easy positions. At least he was having a go.

As a team, Croydon was woeful. Players going wide in space rarely, if ever, were given the ball. Instead, the man with the ball tried to dribble two or three opponents through the middle. Peter Loughane and Jimmy Rooney were among the guilty.

— LAURIE SCHWAB

Rob Cullen available

Former Macedonia and George Cross star Rob Cullen will return to Melbourne on June 2 and is open to offers. Clubs interested should contact Lou Kastner on 795 3559.

PATTERSON BLOWS IT

BOX HILL 1 (McKenna 20th) POLONIA 2 (Marshall 39th, K. Patterson o.g. 75th) at Wembley Park, Sunday.

BOX HILL: McKinley 6 - I. Roodhouse 7, Lawler 6, Brownlie 6, K. Patterson 6 - Hughes 7, Miranda 7 (McCleod 85th), Ramos 9, Verechka 6, McKenna 8 (Kazepardi 80th), Taylor 6, Coach: Bill Murray.

POLONIA: Dzielakowski 6 - Lipienak 6 (Klein 80th), McCullus 6, M. S. Smolarek 7 - P. Czapiak 7, A. Czapiak 7, Petrov 6 - Laskic 6, Marshall 6, Przybyla 7. Coach: Mike Lynn.

Kyle Patterson, sent off in the previous game against Doveton, scored an own goal to give Polonia an important win against Box Hill at Wembley Park on Sunday.

Patterson was sent off a week earlier but was ruled to have served his automatic one game suspension by missing Box Hill's Harry Armstrong Reserve Cup match against Mornington on Easter Monday.

Box Hill's strengths lie in midfield and up front. It's defence is decidedly suspect. Polonia on the other hand, is a side with enormous talent but an almost eccentric attitude. Too many Polonia players spent most of the first half wandering about in a totally, carefree, disinterested fashion, best typified by giant striker Alex Marshall, a player

with immense ability but little application.

The Hillmen dominated the first stanza but found Stefan Mila and Danny McCuskey standing firm at the heart of Polonia's defence.

Box Hill though, still struck first, in the 20th minute, through Scottish newcomer Alan McKenna, a real tough customer. Mila fouled Peter Verechka on the right, just outside the box. Andy Hughes took the resultant free kick, tapping it short to Ray Taylor. The veteran Box Hill striker stopped the ball for Pedro Ramos who clipped it to the far post where McKenna out jumped Peter Czapiak and headed in.

A superb 35 metre shot from Verechka struck the bar as the Hillmen continued to dominate. It came, therefore, as something of a surprise when Polonia hit back in the 39th minute.

Janusz Przybyla played a through ball for Marshall who rode a fierce Donovan Lawler tackle then sweetly knocked the ball under goalkeeper John McKinley's body.

A George Petrov cross in the 67th minute was won in the air by Marshall and headed back across goal. Brendan Laskic failed to make contact but the ball fell for Peter Czapiak who amazingly shot over from just two metres!

With 15 minutes left Peter Czapiak's swinging corner from the left deceived Patterson at the near post, but the faintest of touches to the ball and glanced it into the far corner of his own net to make it 2-1.

Patterson almost made amends in the final minute of normal time when he headed against the bar from a Taylor corner.

— MICK O'BRIEN

MORWELL FALCONS 2 (McGuinness 8th, 53rd) DOVETON 1 (Webster 44th) at North Cragin Reserve, Saturday.

MORWELL FALCONS: Whiteside 7 - Smart 7, Higham 6, Irvine 6, Train 6 - Young 7, Maclean 6, O'Callaghan 6 (T. van Bae 55th) - Evans 7, McGuinness 6, Mitten 6. Coach: Terry Boggi.

DOVETON: Keogh 6 - Thurlow 7, Corka 6, Morrick 6, Muller 7 - Buchanan 6, Dewie 7, Waterhouse 7 - Webster 7, Straton 7, M. Lennon 6 (McIvor H.T. 6). Coach: Ernie Merrick.

Doveton's first State League win in 1983 isn't far away judging by this performance in which the Doves striking duo of Ian Straton and Stan Webster were far more involved than in recent games.

Both sides missed chances in a keenly contested, enjoyable spectacle. Home side Morwell Falcons struck first when Bobby McGuinness gained possession in the 8th minute. Alan Evans and Noel Mitten made off-the-ball runs, taking defenders with them, and leaving space for

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Although few things are certain in soccer, the European Cup final in Athens on May 25 should be a glamorous affair between Italian champion Juventus and Hamburg of West Germany.

Polish World Cup star Zbigniew Boniek showed his former team-mates of Widzew Lodz that he had lost none of his old flair and dynamism since his move to Italy by inspiring Juventus to a 2-0 win in the first-leg semi-final in Turin.

Boniek did not get his name on the scoreline but he was the

Now, Juve v. Hamburg?

game's most influential player and only some superb goalkeeping by Josef Mlynarczyk deprived the flame-haired striker of a hat-trick.

Nor should Hamburg have any fears about their second leg against Spanish champions Real Sociedad in two weeks time. A 1-1 draw in Spain should be enough to set up another Italy-West Germany confrontation.

fourth, May 25th, 1982, Attendance: 40,000.

In Aberdeen: ABERDEEN 5 WATERSCHAI (Belgium) 1. Scores: Aberdeen - Eric Black (1 min), Neil Smith (4), Peter Watt (70), Mark McGhee (88 and 89). Waterschall - Lars Gudmundsson (78). Attendance: 25,000.

UEFA CUP

In Prague: BOHEMIANS PRAGUE (Czechoslovakia) 0 ANDERLECHT (Belgium) 0. Attendance: 0-1. Scorer: Erwin Vandendriessche (31 min). Attendance: 16,000.

In Lisbon: BENFICA (Portugal) 0 UNIVERSITARIA CRAIOVA (Romania) 0.

Beware of bandits

There is an understandable feeling of euphoria among sporting administrators in Victoria, as the long-dreamed-of dawn of the poker machine era approaches.

No doubt there will be a major shot in the arm from the expected invasion of one-armed bandits from north of the border, and soccer clubs are among the many licking their chops at the prospect.

But I hope their expectations are limited and realistic.

Just take a look at the plight of a number of Sydney-based NSL clubs, which allowed themselves to become totally reliant on the proceeds of the gambling machine.

Blinded by the avalanche of cash, they allowed themselves to be lured or downgraded to potential sources of revenue, such as gate takings, for instance.

Now the crowds often are minuscule and, with the economic recession having a deflating effect on the club industry, combined with extortionate taxes, the flow of money also has slowed - in

IN FOCUS

by PETER SCOTT



WALES TO TOUR NZ?



From JIM COOK
our European correspondent

Wales plan a five match tour of New Zealand this June, including a full "A" international against the Kiwis. The Welsh FA will send its strongest squad if the proposed tour is ratified as expected.

TV turmoil

England's Football League has been offered \$16 million over the next two years to show TV and permit video taped matches to be shown in around 5000 clubs and pubs throughout the country. The deal, made by Telecine, a subsidiary of the powerful \$300 million public company London and Liverpool Trust, is worth more than the BBC/ITV recently made. The Football League is discussing and considering the Telecine offer but another company, Video Sports Promotions, have also stepped in with another massive offer spread over three years. The Scottish Football League also is likely to become involved in a separate deal.

Best back

George Best, 36, signed for the rest of the season for Third Division Bournemouth after the club had acquired his registration for a small fee from his American club Golden Bay Earthquakes.

Breithner quandary

Paul Breitner the Bayern Munich and West Germany star who has been regularly

quoted as hanging up his boots at the end of the season is keeping everyone guessing. Initial reports suggested he would remain with Bayern as understood to Uli Hoeneß as team boss but non-press German sources reckon he will continue playing next season - outside his own country.

Hughes at Hull

Emlyn Hughes former long serving captain of Liverpool who had an almost unbroken spell of skipping England from 1971 until 1980 and who was recently sacked as player-manager of Second Division Rotherham United has joined promotion chasing Third Division side Hull City as a player only.

Mighty Pompey

John Deacon, ex-Mayor of Portsmouth who made millions in the property boom, has spent a seven figure amount trying to get the town team back in the First Division. New chairman of the club, Deacon was a player and referee in his younger days. Pompey, nearly a cert to get promotion to the Second Divi-

sion, pays First Division wages and is the best supported club in the Third Division.

Ban lifted

The Football Association have lifted the ban on ticket sales to Scottish fans for the June 1 clash England v Scotland at Wembley. As this is a mid-week evening match the Wembley crowd will be restricted to 82,000.

Top two return

Two top players on the comeback trail after long spells of injury are Spurs Argentinian star Ossie Ardiles, who fractured his leg in February, and Manchester United and England captain and costliest player in U.K. - Bryan Robson. Both are now ready for reserve stints.

Super Scots

The performances of Aberdeen and Dundee United in Europe have given Scotland the prospect of having five instead of four teams in the European competitions in 1984. Evidently place allocations are made on a rating system by UEFA and Scotland will pip both Russia and Holland for an extra spot.

Spurs cut costs

Tottenham Hotspur plans to cut its crippling debt of around \$8 million in half over the next few months through streamlining its staff, cutting the wage bill and extra sponsorship schemes. One of several top players who is likely to go is Ricky Villa, the Argentinian whose goals won the 1981 F.A. Cup. Reports suggest that Cesar Menotti, new coach of Barcelona, is interested in both Villa, whose contract expires at the end of the season, and Ossie Ardiles, who

still has two years to go at White Hart Lane.

West at Anfield

One of the many late transfers before the deadline in March 1982 is the transfer to Liverpool of tall winger David West from Southern League side Dorchester Town. West, 18, only cost the Milk Cup winner \$30,000. But if Liverpool eventually become a first team regular at Anfield and gain recognition by England, Dorchester stands to get an extra \$200,000.

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SCORES, LADDERS

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Marconi won the Phillips Cup in 1980. It's major honors in NSW soccer, apart from the General Division championship won in 1980, are: Grand Final Winner in 1973 and Interstate Grand Final Winner in 1972. One of Marconi's strengths lies with its powerful social club and female support. The men with the job of fighting for honors for Marconi this season are pictured below. They are:

BACK ROW: Alan Maher, Vic Bazzani, Rod Brown, Paul Dwyer, Mark Laidlaw, Rick Budah, FRONT ROW: Dennis Giamber, Aldo Caputo, Tom Gorman, Leo Russell, Tony McCulloch, Tony Henderson, MISSING: Steve Lister, Steve Galloway, Ian Hunter, Kevin Dwyer, Tony Tennel, Milton Glick.

Remaining home games:
MARCH 10, South Melbourne 1-1.
27, Carlton 0-1, 2-1.
MAY 1, Heidelberg Olympic
15, Wollongong City
29, Leichhardt
JUNE 19, West Adelaide
JULY 3, Adelaide City
10, Brisbane Lions
31, Footscray
AUGUST 14, St George
26, Newcastle K.B.
SEPTEMBER 11, Preston/Melbourne
25, Brisbane City
OCTOBER 21, Sydney City



AWAY
Remaining away games:
MARCH 20, Sydney City 0-2
APRIL 3, Brisbane Lions 0-2
10, Adelaide City
24, Footscray
MAY 6, St. George
22, Inverness City
26, Preston/Melbourne
JULY 17, Canberra City
24, Sydney Olympic
AUGUST 7, Leichhardt
31, Wollongong City
SEPTEMBER 11, West Adelaide
18, West Adelaide
OCTOBER 9, South Melbourne

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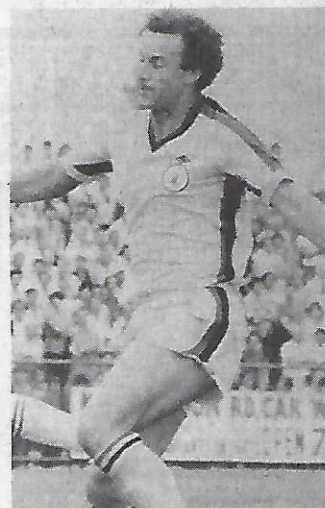
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KO 3pm

PREVIOUS RESULTS
'81 3-1
'82 1-2



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